

CDF RADIO NET DESCRIPTIONS

8024

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

CDF-1

8024.1

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Frequency: 151.355 MHz car-to-car, 159.300 MHz repeater.

CDF 1 is used as a command frequency for communications between ECCs, incident commanders, aircraft and command staff. It may be used for flight-following and for enroute communication between responding and returning mobile units. See the "CDF-1 Radio Net Map" [{see Exhibit}](#).

CDF-2

8024.2

(No. 9 Sept.)

Frequency: 151.265 MHz car-to-car, 159.330 MHz repeater.

CDF 2 is used for the same purposes as CDF 1. See the "CDF-2 Radio Net Map, [{see Exhibit}](#)."

LOCAL NETS

8024.3

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

This is the primary dispatch and operations net for each unit. Most initial attack dispatching is done on the local net. Local net is used for emergency traffic, communications between ECC and aircraft, and routine administrative traffic when the net is clear. See the CDF VHF Frequency Assignment Plan in this section for a listing of all local net frequencies.

TACTICAL NETS

8024.4

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Tactical frequencies are assigned to specific units for incident on-scene radio communications. Their purpose is to provide adequate frequency-separation between multiple incidents and to free up the local net for new emergencies. Tactical frequencies (also known as "Tac Nets") are used for on-scene communications between the incident commander and the resources assigned to the incident.

ECCs will manage and assign tactical frequencies. See this chapter for the following tactical net listings:

1. Northern Region Tactical Frequencies
2. Southern Region Tactical Frequencies
3. CDF Tactical Frequency Numbering Plan

The use and assignment of tactical frequencies must be carefully planned and managed to avoid interference to assigned co-channel users and to minimize interference during multiple incident operations. It is suggested that adjacent ECCs jointly coordinate the assignment of tactical frequencies.

CALIFORNIA TRAVEL NET (Calling Net)

8024.5

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Frequency: 169.125 MHz car-to-car, 168.325 MHz repeater.

The California Travel Net is a USFS radio frequency shared with CDF under a formal agreement. Both agencies have contributed equipment and technical expertise to the statewide network of control stations and repeaters. See the "California Travel Network" map. [{see Exhibit}](#)

The Travel Net is designed for use by ground resources enroute to or from an incident outside their home unit or national forest. This net will not be used as a tactical net, nor will it be used for routine administrative traffic. Travel Net's authorized uses are:

1. Emergency vehicle-to-dispatch communications.
2. Emergency car-to-car communications.
3. Initial contact, recall and/or reassignment of personnel and equipment.
4. Contact channel during long-distance travel by overhead, strike teams, etc.

AIR TACTICS NETS

8024.6

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Frequencies:

- Air Tactics 1 166.675 MHz USFS
- Air Tactics 2 169.150 MHz USFS
- Air Tactics 3 169.200 MHz USFS
- Air Tactics 4 151.280 MHz CDF (formerly CDF Blue Airnet)
- Air Tactics 5 151.295 MHz CDF (formerly CDF Green Airnet)
- Air Tactics 6 151.310 MHz CDF (formerly CDF Yellow Airnet)

These air operations frequencies are shared throughout California by CDF and USFS. When the locally-assigned air tactics frequency is overloaded, or when multiple incidents require frequency separation, the unit ECC is to place a request with the appropriate Region CC/USFS Zone Dispatch, which will assign a frequency.

Communications on the air tactics nets are restricted to air-to-air use, with one exception: CDF helitack crews *on CDF incidents only*, may--with approval from the air tactical supervisor-- transmit on CDF Air Tactics 4, 5, 6 (whichever is assigned) for necessary coordination with their own helicopter. No other ground units are authorized to transmit on the air tactics nets.

VHF-AM AIRCRAFT RADIO FREQUENCIES

8024.6.1

(No. 10 July 1998)

BACKGROUND

8024.6.1.1

(No. 10 July 1998)

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's existing air-to-air tactical frequencies are becoming increasingly overloaded and unusable on large or multi-fire incidents, causing inefficient and often unsafe conditions for the aircraft, personnel and incident assigned resources.

ADDITIONAL VHF RADIO FREQUENCIES

8024.6.1.2

(No. 10 July 1998)

The possibility of CDF utilizing the aeronautical VHF-AM spectrum covering 128.825 to 132.000 MHz. exists, as CDF's aircraft meet the eligibility requirements and the use is confined to "operational control communications" (known as:) "The safe, efficient, and economical operation of aircraft and essential services."

Note: As per U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title-47, part 87, paragraph 87.261.

Part 87 authorizes specific VHF aeronautical radio frequencies, which are commonly utilized by commercial aircraft for air/air and air/ground communications.

PROCEDURES

8024.6.1.3

(No. 10 July 1998)

The following procedures will be followed for the evaluation and use of these additional VHF AM aircraft frequencies:

1. They are to be used only for back up air-to-air tactical frequencies when their use would fall within the scope of safe and efficient operation of aircraft. It must also be recognized that these frequencies are shared with other aeronautical entities.
2. Ordering, requesting, and use of these air tactics frequencies will follow the procedures now in place for air tactics frequencies. Reference Handbook 8000, Section 8024.6.
3. The frequency identifiers, frequency and geographical areas of use are as follows:

Air Tactics 7 - 130.200 MHz. -	San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles Counties
Air Tactics 8 - 131.475 MHz. -	Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties
Air Tactics 9 - 131.575 MHz. -	Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties
Air Tactics 10 - 129.075 MHz. -	Nevada, Yuba, Placer, Amador, El Dorado, Tuolumne, Calaveras and Sutter Counties
Air Tactics 11 - 129.775 MHz. -	Shasta, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Plumas and Sierra Counties
Air Tactics 12 - 131.550 MHz. -	Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc Counties
Air Tactics 13 - 131.600 MHz. -	Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake Counties

Note: Research is in progress to identify frequencies for Air Tactics - 9/12/13.

EVALUATION

8024.6.1.4

(No. 10 July 1998)

It must be realized that these VHF frequencies are authorized for any commercial or government aircraft operator that meets the use restrictions as defined in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, paragraph 87.261. Therefore, CDF users may experience interference from other users.

Research and monitoring of the frequencies listed herein indicates that these should be usable within the geographic areas noted. If users encounter significant interference which makes a particular frequency unusable, please notify the responsible CDF frequency managers for follow-up research. They will attempt to identify and obtain replacement VHF frequencies.

Frequency managers:

Sherm Hanley	(530) 272-7748
Steve Wallace	(916) 653-6622

AIRGUARD NET (AIR SAFETY GUARD)

8024.7

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Frequency: 168.625 MHz

Airguard is reserved for emergencies involving aircraft, for initial contact with aircraft by command and coordination centers, and for diverting or reassigning aircraft in flight. Airguard **must not** be used for report on conditions, tactical information, ordering of equipment or other routine use. Airguard is a USFS frequency which CDF shares through an agreement.

Airguard is monitored in all unit ECCs and region CCs/USFS Zone dispatch offices, and all national forest dispatch offices. Authority to transmit on Airguard is restricted to aircraft, unit ECCs, region CCs/USFS Zones and airtanker/helitack bases. Air Guard net is often referred to as "Air Safety Guard" net by U.S. Forest Service users.

AIR-TO-GROUND NETS

8024.8

(No. 9 Sept. 1995)

Frequencies:

- 151.220 MHz CDF Red Air-to-Ground
- 170.000 MHz USFS Air-to-Ground
- 167.950 MHz BLM Air-to-Ground

BLM, USFS and CDF have pooled the frequencies listed above for use by aircraft in supporting ground operations. Other frequencies controlled by these agencies may be assigned, by ECC or dispatch office, as air-to-ground net on a particular incident. However, the three listed frequencies are the only ones dedicated to the air-to-ground communications link.

Normally, incident ground-to-air transmitting is restricted to the incident commander and/or operations section chief and helitack crews. Individual overhead, fire crews, engines and dozers needing air support should contact IC, Ops or other appropriate line officer on the assigned ground tactical net.

VHF-AM RADIO FREQUENCIES

8024.9

(No. 11 June 1999)

VHF-AM ("Victor") radio frequencies are available for incident use. These frequencies are authorized for air-to-air and air-to-ground communications as specified for individual frequencies. The FAA and the FCC authorize our use of specific VHF aircraft frequencies.

These frequencies are shared throughout California by CDF and USFS. ECCs will place requests for the VHF frequencies with the appropriate Region Command Center (North Ops or South Ops).

Specific frequencies are as follows:

122.850	air-to-air operations
122.900	air-to-air operations
122.925	secondary air tanker base ground operations (See Note 3)
122.950	air-to-air operations
122.975	helicopter air-to-air operations
123.025	helicopter air-to-air operations
123.050	helicopter air-to-air operations/helibase operations

123.075	helicopter air-to-air operations
123.975	national air tanker base ground control/operations (See Note 1/Note 2)
135.975	helicopter air-to-air initial attack operations, California only. (See Note 4)

Note 1:

123.975 Mhz has been designated as the national air tanker base frequency. Authority is via National Interagency Fire Center letter dated February 12, 1999. This frequency replaces 135.975 Mhz.

Note 2:

The 123.975 Mhz frequency has the following limitations:

- It is not used for tactical or flight following communications;
- It is limited to a maximum of 20 watts of transmitter power, and
- It cannot be used above 15,000 feet flight level.

The Regional Command Centers may assign other VHF frequencies for specific incident support, depending on current FAA/FCC authorizations.

Note 3:

The 122.925 Mhz frequency must be available for all air-to-air work by air attacks. This frequency has become the known contact frequency for use by news media, EMS, etc., as well as a “backup” frequency for fire suppression.

Note 4:

Authority for use of 135.975 MHz for helicopter air-to-air communications is via e-mail dated 5/20/99 from USFS Region 5 Telecommunications Manager, Mike Wingate.

FORMS AND/OR FORMS SAMPLES: RETURN TO ISSUANCE HOME PAGE FOR FORMS/FORMS SAMPLES SITE LINK.

[\(see next section\)](#)

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